



Borough of
otherwise




Dunheved
Launceston

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1967

Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.



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Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1967

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston -

Councillor D.C.Tolchard

Councillor H.C.GOLDING (Chairman)

Alderman W.F.Hender (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman R.L.HICKS

Councillor S.G.ADAMS

Councillor Mrs.J.C.HICKS

Councillor J.D.RASHLEY

Councillor C.J.MOORE.

- - - - -

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

W.PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B.,D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health : Launceston Rural District Council
Bude/Stratton Urban District Council
Stratton Rural District Council
Camelford Rural District Council

Health Area Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G.E.GIFFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

Authorised Meat Inspectors :

J.S.HYNDFORD

J.ELLISON

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2182
Population	4600
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1704
Rateable Value 1967	£184,469
Product of ld. rate	£733

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Legitimate	60	36	24	13.3
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	1	-	1	16 per 1,000 total births
<u>DEATHS</u> (all causes)	77	32	45	16.7

Puerperal and post-abortive
sepsis Nil
Other Puerperal causes Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

N I L

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5	4	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		N I L	

Health Area Office,
Launceston.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Mrs. Hicks and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health for the year 1967.

The vital statistics show that deaths were three fewer than
in 1966, while the number of live births increased by three. The
unfavourable balance of deaths over births continued, but the Registrar-
General's estimate of the mid-year population, 4600, showed an increase of
30 over the previous year's figure. No infant deaths occurred, but there
was one stillbirth.

No serious outbreaks of infectious disease occurred during the
year, but there was a small epidemic of measles, with the peak in June and
July.

The work of the Health Department resembles G.K.Chesterton's
Invisible Man. Always present, it is routine, familiar, unobtrusive,
and so much a continuing part of the normal scene that it does not rise
to the level of conscious notice, as far as the general public is concerned.
This is as it ought to be, and this report is the record of the successful
completion of the work of a further year, as far as success may be attributed
to a repetitive process which covers largely the same ground year after year.

I must express my thanks to Mr. G.E.Gifford, the Council's Chief
Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our
work together and in the preparation of this report. The Council's other
Departments have continued their willing help. I am grateful to the General
Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest
and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the
Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health

AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1967 to be 4,600, an increase of 30 on the previous year. The "natural increase" in the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1967 there were 16 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS - The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 77 compared with 80 in 1966. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population, was 16.7 compared with 17.50 in the previous year. The following table was been compiled for comparison with previous years :

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1963	81	39	42	17.96
1964	70	42	28	15.384
1965	105	50	55	22.97
1966	80	44	36	17.50
1967	77	32	45	16.7

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.58 for this Borough.

The standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 9.686 which may be compared with that of 11.2 (provisional) for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 61 compared with 58 in 1966. The rate per thousand of the population was 13.3. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.09) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 14.49 for this Borough compares with 17.2 (provisional) for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - The number of stillbirths during 1967 was one.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - There was one illegitimate birth assigned to the Borough during the year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - There were no infant deaths in 1967.

NOTE :

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the
Abbreviated List of the International Statistical
Classifications of Disease, Injuries and Causes of
Death, 1955.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	8	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	7	14	21
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
20. Other heart disease	3	5	8
21. Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	1	1
24. Bronchitis	-	-	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	2	2
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	32	45	77

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

County Council Services

- I Health Department : The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district :-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
 - (b) Health Visiting. Health Visitors are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. Originally concerned with the care of mothers and young children, which is still their basic function, they are increasingly concerned with other age groups, particularly the aged. Some health visitors combine the work with general nursing and midwifery. All act also as school nurses.
 - (c) Child Welfare Centre. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston, three times each month.
 - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
 - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and for poliomyelitis vaccination, are provided at the Child Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor.
 - (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
 - (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utility sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.

(h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Routine tuberculin testing and, if necessary, B.C.G. vaccination (i.e. vaccination against tuberculosis) is provided for senior school children. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, and health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.

(i) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Mental Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education
Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-
Dental Clinic by appointment
Child Guidance Clinic, by arrangement.

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

Hospital Services

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy Chest Hospital and Tchidy Hospital. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held twice monthly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Antenatal clinic is held in Launceston each week.

Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The Borough of Launceston comes within the area served by the East Cornwall Water Board. The water, from an upland surface gathering ground, is soft and slightly acid, and the average daily requirement of 200,000 gallons is adequately met. Due to the adequate rainfall during the year, no restriction was placed on the use of hoses.

Works are being carried out by the East Cornwall Water Board to increase the supply potential by the laying of new larger diameter mains connected to an alternative source shortly to be reconstructed.

Out of a total of 1,704 dwellings with a population of 4,600 persons, 1,700 dwellings and 4,589 persons are supplied with water from public water mains.

No stand pipes are used in the Borough.

SAMPLING

The following is a summary of reports of water samples taken in the area :-

Public Supplies

I By East Cornwall Water Board

(a) Untreated Water

Chemical Samples : No reports received

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilla</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
11	7	7

Note : Of the samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal), counts were uniformly low, with the exception of one taken in December.

(b) Treated Water

Chemical Samples : Two reports were received :-

(a) Sample of water dated 11/1/67 of treated water direct from main.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. It has,

however, a faintly acid reaction due to its content of free carbon dioxide with low carbonate alkalinity and will therefore tend to show corrosive action on metals. It is very soft in character, but with a fairly low content of mineral and saline constituents. It conforms to the highest standard of organic purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. For public supply purposes, however, a higher pH would be advantageous from the aspect of avoiding corrosive action on metals. The sample was found to have a faint "oily" odour."

(b) Sample of water dated 9/10/67 of treated water from domestic tap.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance. It contains a trace of zinc and a negligible trace of iron. It has an acid reaction due to its content of free carbon dioxide with very low carbonate alkalinity and will therefore, tend to show action on metals. The water is of a high standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. The trace of zinc in the sample may be derived from galvanised pipe and a sampling point avoiding this slight complication would be preferable."

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
15	0	0

II. By Health Department, Launceston Borough Council (from distribution system - treated water).

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
13	0	0

It is the routine practice of your Health Department to send a copy of each bacteriological report on these samples, to the Chief Engineer, East Cornwall Water Board, for his information.

Private Supplies

One sample from a drinking fountain supplied via an underground reservoir on Council property contained coliform organisms. The reservoir was cleaned and resampling was satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATH

The swimming bath at Coronation Park is of the open air type. It has a capacity of approximately 100,000 gallons of water. This is filtered by the circulating method and chlorinated by an automatic dosing plant.

Thirty-four samples of water were taken for bacteriological analysis. Coliform organisms were found to be present in two samples, one taken in June and one taken in July. Steps were immediately taken to increase the chlorine level and a sample free from coliform organisms was quickly obtained.

CHILDRENS' PADDLING POOL

Twenty-two samples of water were taken from the paddling pool and on eight occasions coliform organisms were present in considerable numbers. In view of the fact that the chlorinated water treated via the swimming bath apparatus quickly became contaminated, manual dosing with chloros twice weekly was instituted with highly satisfactory results.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Launceston is largely served by the separate or dual system of sewerage, whereby surface water is excluded from the foul sewers. Only four properties remain which still use conservancy methods.

There are two sewage disposal works, a small one at Scarne built by the Army Authorities during the war and modernised in 1959, and a much larger one at St. Leonards which has functioned in its new form since April, 1963, following complete reconstruction and enlargement.

DISINFECTION.

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out when infectious disease is notified, and the circumstances of the case require it.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required. Spraying against cluster fly in the roof spaces of three houses was carried out. Assistance was given with the disinfestation for flea infestation of another property.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Bi-weekly collections are made of house refuse and weekly collections made of refuse and paper from trade premises. A compression type refuse loader is used.

On estimation, according to the formula used by the Ministry, 3,900 tons of refuse are collected and disposed of yearly by the Local Authority. In addition, approximately 145 tons are deposited direct at the Council's disposal point by private persons.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are provided with washing facilities and an additional public convenience is under construction in the Newport area.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Inspection of premises registered under this Act continued during the year and 115 detailed inspections were carried out.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

1. Number of properties in district
2. (a) Total number of properties
(including nearby premises)
inspected following
notification
- (b) Number infested by (i) Rats
(ii) Mice
3. (a) Total number of properties
inspected for rats and/or mice
for reasons other than
notification
- (b) Number infested by (i) Rats
(ii) Mice

TYPE OF PROPERTY	
NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
2240	34
42	6
19	2
2	-
240	22
15	4
3	-

SEWERS

4. Number of sewers infested by rats
during the year Nil

POISONS USED :- Sorexal 15 lbs. Zinc Phosphide 1 lb. 4 ozs.
Arsenic 3 lbs.

HOUSING

1.	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	4600
2.	(a) Total number of permanent houses at 31st December, 1967	...	...	...	...	1704
	(b) Total number of permanent houses owned by Local Authority at 31st December, 1967...	...	...	...	...	326
3.	(a) New houses erected					
	(i) by local authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(ii) by private enterprise	...	...	...	...	35
	(b) Number of applicants on housing list at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	125
4.	Number of houses specially provided for, and occupied by, people of pensionable age during 1967.					
	(a) Receiving contribution from County Council for Welfare Services	...	...	...	...	-
	(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	-
5.	Houses demolished -					
	(a) in clearance areas -					
	(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	-
	(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	...	...	...	...	-
	(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
	(b) not in clearance areas -					
	(i) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
	(ii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	-
	(iii) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	...	...	...	...	-
	(iv) Unfit houses included in unfitness orders	...	...	...	...	-

6. Unfit houses closed -

(a) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil

7. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied -

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(a) after informal action by local authority	21	-
(b) after formal notice under -		
(i) Public Health Acts	...	-
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Acts, 1957	-	-
(c) under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	-

8. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957) -

(a) Retained for temporary accommodation -		
(i) under Section 48	...	Nil
(ii) under Section 17(2)	...	Nil
(iii) under Section 46	...	Nil
(b) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	...	Nil

9. Purchase of houses by agreement -

Houses in clearance area other than those included in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders, purchased during the year

10. Housing Acts 1949 - 1965

Improvement Grants -

(a) Discretionary -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	...	£697 (Applications made in 1966 - 3 units).

(b) Standard -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	...	14
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	...	12
Total approved expenditure	...	...	£1,715 (Max. grant permitted)		
Total amount of grants made	...	...	£515 (4 dwellings)		

Note - 12 grants approved to 31st December, 1967 were unpaid at that date.
Number of applications for standard grants to 31st December, 1967
total 90

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960</u>		
		<u>Section 16</u> <u>complied with</u>	<u>Section 19</u> <u>Obligatory</u>	<u>Section 19</u> <u>Complied with</u>
Butchers	10	10	10	10
Small Goods Factories	3	3	3	3
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1
Bakers' shops	2	2	2	2
Cafes and Hotels	10	10	10	10
Dairies	6	6	6	6
Egg Packing Stations	1	1	-	-
Fish and Chip Shops	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	4	4	4	4
Grocers	15	15	15	15
Poulterers	1	1	1	1
Slaughterhouses	2	2	-	2
School Meals Kitchens	4	4	4	4
Hospital Kitchens	2	2	2	2
Fresh Fish Shops	2	2	2	2

Note: Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Section 16 : Requirement to provide personal washing facilities

Section 19 : Requirement to provide facilities for the washing
of food and equipment

No exemptions from the requirement to provide the above facilities
have been issued by the Council

(ii) Classified Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1959.

Premises registered for Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	26
Premises registered for the Sale of Fish and Chips	2
Premises registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.	9
Premises registered as Dairies	6

(iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out :-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Inspections</u>
Fish and Chip Shops	6
Sausage Making Establishments, etc.	10
Ice Cream Premises	57
Dairies	31

Contamination of Foodstuff

In October, four chocolate-flavoured cup cakes, purchased locally, were found, on their wrappers being removed, to be heavily contaminated with mould. The Weights and Measures Department of the County Council was called in and, after a full investigation, legal proceedings which had been considered in this case were not instituted, due to mitigating circumstances.

In December, information was received that complaints were being made by several supervisors of schools meals kitchens in Devon regarding the quality of meat provided by a local firm. The Public Health Departments of the Authorities in whose districts these schools were situated were contacted and their investigations indicated that there were no grounds for supposing that the meat was in any way unfit for human consumption.

(iv) Educational Activities

Posters, leaflets and codes of practice, where applicable, are issued to food-producing establishments and food shops, and advice is given whenever possible. A general circular on the retailing of fresh pies, cooked meats and fresh sausages was circulated. This was felt to be necessary in view of the widely differing ideas amongst shopkeepers of the manner in which these articles should be handled.

(v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat, according to the type of meat, is sent to one of three premises at Southampton, Exeter and Ascot respectively, where it is sterilised and manufactured into fertiliser and other products. Condemned canned foods are dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip. The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960, require all butchers' meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained and sterilised before entering the chain of distribution.

(vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments

It was necessary to condemn the complete contents of a deep freeze display cabinet, the refrigeration machinery of which had broken down.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1959.

No ice cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Fifty-nine samples of ice-cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Twenty-nine samples were classified as Provisional Grade 1, twenty-one as Provisional Grade 2, five in Provisional Grade 3 and one in Provisional Grade 4. It is desirable that 80% of the samples should be classified in Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3 and none should fall into Grade 4. The desirable percentages were achieved in relation to the samples taken, but it will be seen that one sample did fall into Grade 4, which is highly unsatisfactory and further detailed sampling was undertaken to ascertain the cause.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1960

Frequent inspections of all food establishments in the Borough were carried out during the year.

(ix) Milk and Cream

There are six registered dairies in the Borough. Milk is delivered from two of these and from the local depot of another large dairying firm operating in the south-west. A further trader whose premises are not within the Borough also retails milk.

The following samples of milk were taken by this Department during the year :-

Untreated Milk

Passed Methylene
Blue Test

3

Failed Methylene
Blue Test

2

Passed Biological Test
(i.e. for T.B.)

3

Failed Biological Test

-

Passed Brucella Abortus Ring Test

4

Failed Brucella Abortus Ring Test

-

Pasteurised

Twenty-seven samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken and all passed the Methylene Blue test and the Phosphatase tests.

(x) Unsound Food

Eighteen visits were made in order to condemn unsound foodstuffs.

(xi) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

100% meat inspection was carried out within the Borough during the year. There was a decrease of 734 in the number of animals slaughtered in 1967, indicating a fall of 0.9% compared with the 1966 figure, and representing a total kill of 82,902 animals made up as follows :-

Bovines	6918 increased by 1287 or 22.8%
Calves	3867 increased by 1533 or 65.6%
Sheep	54747 increased by 250 or 0.5%
Pigs	<u>17370</u> decreased by 3803 or 18.0%

82902 decreased by 734 or 0.9%

Cysticercus Bovis

There were seven cases of infestation by *Cysticercus Bovis* detected during 1967, as against two in 1966. None of the animals affected were cows. The parasite, developmental stage of the human tapeworm, *taenia saginata*, was found in the cheek muscle of four animals and in the heart muscle of the remainder.

Affected carcasses are totally condemned if the condition is generalised, otherwise they are treated by three weeks refrigeration at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit. In the cases detected during the year, the lesions were localised, and only the organ or part affected was condemned, the remainder of each carcass being treated as above.

Tuberculosis

No cases of Bovine Tuberculosis occurred during the year. The incidence of Tuberculosis in Pigs was 1.3%, and this compares favourably with 1.5% in 1966.

Slaughtering Licences

Twenty-nine licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

Diseases of Animals Act

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Act occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.

(xii) Poultry Inspection

(i) Number of poultry processing premises within the district		1
(ii) Number of visits to these premises		28
(iii) Total number of birds processed during the year		272,338
(iv) Types of birds processed	Chickens	12,280
	Turkeys	3,110
	Hens	225,698
	Broilers	31,250
(v) Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	Average	2 - 4%
(vi) Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption		15,837 lbs.
(vii) Comments on poultry processing and inspection :-		

More frequent and thorough poultry examination has been possible during the year following instruction received at a Ministry Course on the technique of poultry inspection.

Throughput at this one establishment has increased and has made more frequent visiting necessary.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.67.

	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>	<u>Building Operations</u> <u>Electrical Stations</u> <u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Agricultural Implement Repairs	3	-	
Bakehouses	1	-	
Brush Making	1	-	
Cabinet Making	1	-	
Cellulose Spraying	1	-	
Dresses and Millinery	2	-	
Egg Grading and Packing	1	-	
Electrical and Radio Repairs	2	-	
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1	-	
Gas Holder	1	-	
Hide Salting and Dressing	-	1	
Joinery	5	1	
Laundry	2	-	
Letter Press Printing	2	-	
Monumental Mason	1	-	
Motor Body Painting	1	-	
Motor Body Builders	1	-	
Motor Vehicle Repairs	15	-	
Provender	1	-	
Poultry Slaughterhouses	1	-	
Packing Cases	1	-	
Radio Repairs	1	-	
Rope Splicing	-	1	
Sawmills	1	-	
Seed Dressing	1	-	
Sausage Manufacturers	3	-	
Television Repairs	2	-	
Upholstery	1	-	
Watch and Clock Repairs	2	-	
Wool Grading	1	-	
Electrical Stations			1
Building Operations			6
Slaughterhouses			1
	56	3	8

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961 are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with Circular 1/67 of the Ministry of Health.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, relapsing fever, plague, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, anthrax, food poisoning, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery, puerperal pyrexia, infective jaundice, whooping cough, measles, acute encephalitis, meningococcal infection and leprosy.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 51 vaccinations and 6 re-vaccinations were carried out.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

Seventy-eight children received a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in almost all cases. Eighty-eight children received a reinforcing dose.

Measles. Eighty-seven cases were notified during the year, the majority occurring in June and July.

Whooping Cough. Four cases of this infection were notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis. No case of this infection was notified during the year, in the course of which 81 persons received a complete course of oral vaccination and a further 121 a reinforcing dose.

Dysentery. Two cases were notified in September. These were of the mild variety, and were unconnected with one another. Investigations into possible source of infection produced no definite results.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.66	9	3	11	3
No. of cases notified				
during year	1	-	1	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	1	-	-	-
Cases Removed	4	-	7	-
<hr/>				
Total on Register				
31.12.67	7	3	5	3

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and, thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible Secondary School children was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

Primary school children attending a local school, possible contacts of a case of tuberculosis, were subject to supervision, over a period of a year, by the periodic repetition of a tuberculin skin test. This procedure showed that no children had contracted the infection. Adult contacts on the staff of the school were checked by chest X-ray, with the same satisfactory result.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1967, the deaths of two males due to cancer of the lung were recorded, out of a total of nine cancer deaths. Since 1949, there have been 94 male and 107 female deaths from all forms of cancer. Of these, eighteen male and seven female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung.

Cancer of the Cervix. The Cervical Cytology Clinic at Launceston came into operation again in January, 1967, as the Area Pathological Laboratory became able once more to accept specimens for examination, having overcome the staffing difficulties which led to the suspension of the clinic in the previous year.

Women between the ages of 30 and 55 years are accepted for this form of examination. The clinic at Launceston serves the whole of the Health Area, and beyond. During the year, 501 specimens were submitted to the laboratory. One case of obvious cancer of the cervix was discovered, and was referred for urgent treatment. Two further suspicious cases were referred for more detailed investigation.

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths - 1967

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION (Estimated)</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>			
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Crude Rate</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1963	4510	62	17.96	-	-	81	17.96
1964	4550	67	14.725	1	14.92	70	15.38
1965	4570	84	18.599	-	-	105	22.97
1966	4570	58	12.69	-	-	80	17.50
1967	4600	61	13.30	-	-	77	16.70

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apl. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Total

Measles	6	-	-	-	4	27	40	5	-	5	-	-	87
Whooping Cough	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
	6	1	2	-	4	27	40	5	3	5	-	-	93

TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	4364	2554	3867	54747	17370	-
Number inspected	4364	2554	3867	54747	17370	-
<u>All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	10	46	49	204	43	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1668	2026	46	5148	1220	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	38.5%	81.14%	2.4%	9.7%	7.3%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	243	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.3%	-
<u>Cysticercosis only</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfit meat rejected	53 tons 17 cwts. 1 Qtr. 12 lbs.					

TABLE V

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED</u>	<u>COMPLIED WITH</u>
Defective Drainage	4	3
General Defects	8	6
Insanitary Conditions	6	6
Obstructed Drainage	3	3
Food Hygiene Regulations	15	15
Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations	1	1

Total Number of Complaints Received 113

Total Number of Visits paid 1479

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of
the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	56	70	12	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers' premises)	8	28	2	-
Total	67	110	14	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp- erature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(Section 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	3	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	11	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	14	-	2	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Altering Wearing Apparel	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

